
Assembly Bill 12 Stakeholder Meeting

March 23, 2011

The California Endowment



Web Seminar Participation

- Call-in phone number: (312) 878-0218
- Access Code: 585-788-427
- Audio PIN: Shown after joining the Webinar
- To submit live questions, click on the “Question” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”



Meeting Goals

- Provide an overview of the work that has been done by each of the Focus Area Teams convened by CDSS
- Share any policy proposals that have been developed
- Provide an opportunity for review and comment



AB 12 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



AB 12 Steering Committee
Vision/Core Values

Coordinating Leadership Team
CDSS/AOC/CWDA/CPOC
Integration & Alignment

CDSS Focus Areas *AOC*



Deliverables

- *ACLs/CFLs*
- *Forms*
- *IV-E State Plan*
- *Informing materials*
- *Curricula*
- *Clean-up Issues*
- *Rules of Court*
- *Automation changes*
- *Regulations*

FOCUS AREA TEAM UPDATES & OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT



LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE & CORE VALUES



AB 12 Core Values

- **Voice of Young Adults:** The voices of young adults truly matter.
 - AB 12 promotes youth-driven practice.
 - Practice must recognize that youth over the age of 18 are legal adults.



AB 12 Core Values (con't)

- **Assistance and Partnering:** Young people often need active assistance – and real partnerships – to reinforce and support learning as they transition into adulthood.
 - Practice should be based on support, not supervision.
 - Practice must redefine the relationships that all practitioners have with youth and young adults (social workers, probation officers, attorneys, judges, care providers etc.).



AB 12 Core Values (con't)

- **Love and Belonging:** Everyone – no matter how old – needs someone to belong to and call their own.
 - Practice should continue to promote permanency and permanent connections for youth and young adults throughout the period they are involved in the child welfare system. Permanency efforts must begin at the very beginning, and be sustained.



AB 12 Core Values (con't)

- **Unique Needs:** Every young adult is unique.
- **Eligibility is Maintained:**
 - Practice should continue to promote permanency and permanent connections for youth and young adults throughout the period they are involved in the child welfare system. Permanency efforts must begin at the very beginning, and be sustained.



AB 12 Core Values (con't)

- **Development is Supported:** Challenges, pitfalls and experimentation are part of the process of becoming an adult.
 - It is not about compliance, but about planning for success.
 - Practice should facilitate steadily increasing levels of responsibility and independence.
 - Young adults must have room to make mistakes.
 - Young adults must be provided reasonable accountability for their mistakes, that includes logical consequences but NOT 'zero tolerance.'



AB 12 COURT RULES WORKGROUP

Workgroup Structure

- Co-Chairs:

- Administrative Office of the Courts – AletaBeaupid
- Co-Sponsor Representative – Leslie Heimov, CLCLA

- Members:

Attorneys

County Child Welfare

CDSS

Judges

Legal Services

CASA

Probation

County Counsel

Leg. Staff

Rules of Court & Forms

■ Rules of Court:

- Interpret or support legislation by providing guidance and clarity
- Have force of law
- Are subject to public comment but are ultimately adopted by the Judicial Council

■ Forms are created:

- In response to legislative directive
- To assist the court in providing information to the public
- To assist the court in obtaining needed information from litigants
- To assist the public in accessing the legal system
- To document the court's findings and orders

Goals

- Identify AB 12 changes to Welfare and Institutions Code which require new Rule of Court or Form or change to current Rule of Court or Form
- Review and provide comment on Rules and Forms
- Identify any areas of AB12 calling for correction, clarification or other revision & recommend clean-up legislation

Work Plan

- First Meeting – December 22, 2010
 - Then weekly through February 23, 2011
 - Presented to AOC Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee – February 17, 2011
 - Reviewed AOC Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee's comments - February 23, 2011
 - Public Comment Period: April 19 – June 20, 2011
 - To view draft rules go to www.courts.ca.gov during comment period
 - Workgroup to reconvene mid-May
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Extension of FC Beyond age 18 for Dependents & Wards

Requires restructuring of current court procedures & hearings to provide information re:

- Potential benefits of remaining in foster care
- Explanation of eligibility criteria
- Trial independence
- Reinstatement
- Definitions
- Transition planning

- Purpose of Legislation
- Impact of youth's status as an adult
- Collaborative nature of hearings
- Conduct & purpose of the various hearings
- Modifications to 387 & 388
- Notice of hearings
- Changes to WIC 391
- Application to ICWA

Forms

- Additional Findings and Orders for Youth Approaching Majority (Dependency and Delinquency)
 - Hearing for Dismissal – Additional Findings and Orders
 - Finding and Orders After Nonminor Dependent Review Hearing
 - Hearing to Consider Termination
 - Termination of Dependency/Juvenile Court Jurisdiction – Child Attaining Age of Majority
 - Petition to Resume Juvenile Court Jurisdiction over nonminor
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388 – Drafting Conflict

- Author & Co-Sponsor Intent
 - Safety Net – former IV-E funded youth must be able to re-enter without first establishing 2nd prong of eligibility.
 - Unless disabled at time of request must only show potential /intent to comply with work or education requirement
 - Current language requires compliance in order to have case re-opened
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To Join the Court
Rules Workgroup
e-mail Jody Green

greenj@clcla.org

Program and Placement Focus Area Team

- Three Subgroups (see issue matrixes)
 - Program Criteria - focuses on the responsibilities of the case manager/social worker (not the eligibility worker), the five program eligibility criteria for extended foster care, case planning/TILP, and criteria for the new SILP.
 - THP-Plus Foster Care – focuses on designing program and rates for new THP-Plus Foster Care
 - Licensing and Approval – develop licensing and approval standards for placements for nonminor dependents (FFH, FFA, group homes, relative caregivers, THP-Plus FC)
- The full Program and Placement Focus Area Team meets once a month to coordinate work among the subgroups



Program Criteria Subgroup: Key Discussion Items (2/28 and 3/14 Meetings)

- Meeting the participation requirements
 - Consensus that there needs to be a way to engage youth quickly on reentry
 - Consensus that counties will need a menu of activities available to youth
 - Focus on how a youth will satisfy requirement of “participating in a program or activity designed to remove barriers to employment” (see draft document)

NOTE: The subgroup has not discussed the other participation requirements (education or work) in detail yet. Stay tuned!



Program Criteria Subgroup: Key Discussion Items (2/28 and 3/14 Meetings)

- Documentation Needed (see draft document)
 - Focused on extended foster care. Still need to discuss documents for AAP and Kin-GAP for 18 – 21 year olds.
- Documents that need to be created and/or revised
 - Mutual Agreement (see draft document)
 - Transitional Independent Living Plan (not yet drafted)
 - First step of enrollment of youth in extended foster care is to redo the TILP
 - Talked about need to review TILP form that is in existence to see how/if it can be modified
 - Placement Agreement (not yet drafted)



Licensing and Approval Subgroup: Key Discussion Items

- Kick-Off Meeting was on March 18, 2011
- Approach of licensing group is add special section for each licensing group specific to non-minor dependents
- Categories of Facilities with New Licensing/Approval Regulations:
 - Foster Family Homes (approval standards for relative caregivers parallels the FFH regulations)
 - Foster Family Agencies
 - Group Homes
 - Transitional Housing Placement Program
 - NOTE: licensing does not govern THP-Plus Programs and does not intend to develop them for THP-Plus Foster Care



Licensing and Approval Subgroup:

Key Discussion Items

- Distinction made between areas that Community Care Licensing needs to address versus those that are part of the Placement Agreement, but not a licensing issue.
 - Licensing: If fail to follow a licensing rule, can lose your license (or lose the home's approval)
 - Versus, if fail to follow placement agreement 00 the non-minor dependent may need to find another place to live – but doesn't disrupt the license/approval of the home/facility
- Example: Non-minor dependent will have to comply with house rules – but that's not part of licensing
 - Termination of placement does not terminate AB 12 eligibility



Licensing and Approval Subgroup: Key Discussion Items

- Broke into groups to discuss each of the relevant CCL categories and make recommendations. Key discussion items that may need to be amended for non-minor populations:
 - Health records/ability to control own medical needs
 - Privacy/autonomy/respecting independence of youth in coming and going, maintaining own documents, etc
 - Access to internet
 - Ability to leave non-minor unsupervised
 - Changing rules about who can sleep in the same room (rules currently prohibit males and females from sleeping in same room)
 - Basic level of services that the provider must provide
 - Role of provider is to assist the non-minor dependent to achieve goals, not just doing activities for the youth



THP-Plus Foster Care Subgroup

- Workgroup includes CDSS, county representatives & AB 12 co-sponsors; interest in inviting THP-Plus providers
- Two workgroup meetings held
- Responsible for drafting ACLs related to Program Design, Approval Standards for THP-Plus Foster Care Providers & THP-Plus Foster Care rate



THP-Plus Foster Care Subgroup: Who is likely to access THP-Plus Foster Care?

- FY 2009-10: 17% of 18 year olds and 22% of 19 year olds aged out of a group home (78% of probation youth aged out of a group home)
- 18% of THP-Plus participants that entered program in 2010 came directly from a group home
- THP-Plus Foster Care will likely be best placement option for youth in group homes who elect to stay in care
- Looking at anticipated service needs to inform program design



THP-Plus Foster Care Subgroup Responsibilities

- Program Design
 - Consensus that THP-Plus FC will closely follow THP-Plus program
 - THP-Plus FC goals and program elements
- Approval Standards for THP-Plus FC Providers
 - Build on existing certification framework
 - Create more standardization that may include site visit verification, rental unit inspection, youth focus groups
- THP-Plus Foster Care Rate
 - To be finalized after program design



Program and Placement: Higher Education

- Minimum requirement of one course
- Any licensed institution eligible
 - Public systems
 - Bureau for Private Post Secondary Ed
 - Western Assn. of Schools and Colleges
 - Includes online courses
- Both for-credit and non-credit courses eligible
- Enrollment defined as class enrollment (not institution)



Program and Placement: Higher Education (con't)

- Include range of options such as unofficial transcript and course schedule print out
- If a student drops courses does not result in automatic disqualification. Circumstances of situation taken into consideration.



Eligibility and Rates Focus Area Team

- The Eligibility and Rates Focus Area Team had kick-off meeting on March 16th and will be meeting twice a month for the near future
- This group is focused on role of eligibility worker (as opposed to the social worker)
- Issues this group is responsible for
 - ❑ Eligibility forms (FC2)
 - ❑ SILP
 - ❑ 388e Petition
 - ❑ Age into program and phase-in
 - ❑ Review draft certification form
 - ❑ KinGAP/AAP/CalWORKs
 - ❑ NOAs
 - ❑ Draft ACL



Eligibility and Rates Focus Area Team

- Discussed what the bottom line is for the eligibility worker
 - ❑ Needs certification every 6 months that the youth is/remains eligible
 - ❑ If social worker believes youth is not meeting participation requirement – must first go to dependency court and get finding that the youth is not participating
 - ❑ Only the court can terminate dependency
- Discussed the events that must be reported to the eligibility worker (that results in change in payment or stopping payment)
 - ❑ Death
 - ❑ Change in placement/AWOL (different for SILP)
 - ❑ Incarceration/hospitalization
 - ❑ Birth (nonminor dependent has a child)
 - ❑ Marriage
 - ❑ Joining the military
 - ❑ Receipt of other benefits/property
 - ❑ Court put youth on trial independence



Eligibility and Rates Focus Area Team

- Discussed issues that could adversely impact youth's ability to re-enter foster care after trial independence
 - ❑ Emergency placement options
 - ❑ Interstate issues
 - ❑ Incarceration
 - ❑ Danger to self or others
 - ❑ Criminal background
- Next steps
 - ❑ Going to have draft ACL for review by next meeting
 - ❑ Brainstorming list of questions we want answered in a Q&A ACL



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training *Focus Area Team*

- Meets monthly - 2 workgroup meetings have been held
- Co-chaired by CA Foster Care Ombudsman's, Office and California Youth Connection (CYC) along with CDSS
- Stakeholders from CDSS, Current and or Former Foster Youth, County Officials, Child Welfare Advocates, Philanthropic Organizations, Education, Probation, legislative reps, and providers



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training Plan

Plan Consists of:

- Developing Marketing Materials aimed at specific audiences (ie. Youth, Caregivers, Child Welfare Workers, Probation, Education)
- Surveys
- Statewide Youth Advisory Council
- Trainings
- Community Forums/ Focus Groups



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training Accomplishments

Accomplishments

- Workgroup has produced 3 AB-12 Fact Sheets
 - General
 - Youth
 - Values
- AB 12 Facebook with 250 followers
- Met with CALSWEC, STEC, to engage Social Worker input into training and curriculum development, conducted focus groups



Delinquency Workgroup

- 2 meetings with representation from probation, delinquency court judges, public defenders and advocates (chaired by AOC)
- Workgroup addressing issues with existing framework for probation youth in AB 12
 - Concerns with modifying delinquency status to dependency status
 - Desire to give delinquency supervised foster youth same opportunity to “opt in” as dependency supervised youth.
 - Ensuring that delinquency supervised non-minor dependents are no longer subject to sanctions
 - Concerns with re-entry issues



Delinquency Workgroup (con't)

- Group interest in creating a single status for all youth (both dependent and delinquent) post 17
 - Group working on developing possible mechanisms to move towards this goal- draft language is in development
 - Amendments expected to be included in AB 212
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Next Steps

- All meeting materials and the webinar recording will be available at www.cafosteringconnections.org
- Implementing All County Letters completed by August 1, 2011; distributed by October 1, 2011
- Stakeholder input is shared with CDSS on a weekly basis
- AB 12 cosponsors will continue to report back and solicit input

- **Next stakeholder meeting:**

Wednesday, April 27th in Los Angeles



Subject Matter Breakout Groups

Affinity Group/Interest	Facilitator(s)	Room
State & County Child Welfare Staff	Barry Johnson	Lake Merritt
Youth	Chantel Johnson, Quenette Martinez & Kevin West	Lounge
Judicial Officers & Legal Service Organizations	Leslie Heimov & Jody Green	Laurel
THP-Plus	Michele Byrnes & Jackie Rutheiser	Uptown
Caregivers	Angie Schwartz	Elmhurst
Postsecondary Education	Debbie Raucher	Laurel
Delinquency	Jennifer Rodriguez	Laurel



More Questions?

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